

Executive Registry

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SPECIAL REPORT

Foreign Media Reaction

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DOWNING OF SOUTH KOREAN PASSENGER JET - III

Summary

President Reagan's radio talk was widely covered in the third day of voluminous, worldwide media attention to the Soviet downing of South Korea's Boeing 747.

On the basis of the President's remarks, media speculated on what actions the United States might take against the Soviet Union. West German TV One's Washington correspondent said, "The Americans do not want to use economic pressure against the Soviets. And many insisted, as did the London Sunday Telegraph, that INF "talks have to go ahead for the sake of those that live on both sides of the iron curtain."

Even though editorialists in all parts of the world complained about the Soviet's lack of candor over the incident, they expected that, as liberal Le Monde of Paris said today, "Moscow, little by little, crumb by crumb" will admit new facts.

Observers challenged the credibility of the Soviet Union over the incident. Copenhagen's conservative Berlingske Tidende said, "The Soviet Union, in just a few hours, has succeeded in tearing down its own credibility."

It was suggested by others that Soviet leader Andropov may have "lost control" of the Soviet military, and cannot "admit the facts" without a confrontation with his military leaders. Some such as Oslo's conservative Aftenposten went so far as to say that "it looks as if the (Soviet) political leaders are mere figureheads."

Editorialists in widely separated capitals as Athens and Suva agreed with today's London Observer that "in many quarters there seemed to be a greater concern for exploiting the disaster for propaganda purposes than for establishing the actual details of what occurred."

United States Information Agency

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WESTERN EUROPE

BRITAIN

President Reagan's Rage and International Outrage

Third-day coverage of the downing of a South Korean passenger jet continued to dominate front pages with emphasis on President Reagan's anger and international outrage.

"Fury Mounts"

Headlines today were "U.S. Names Guilty Soviet General" (Sunday Times), "Reagan Hits at Soviet 'Murderers'" (Observer), "Fury Mounts Over Plane Shot Down by Russians--Ready-to-Obey Signal Was Ignored" and "Reagan Studies Options" (Sunday Telegraph), "Thatcher Poised to Back Call for NATO Boycott--Reagan's Red Air Ban Worldwide" (Sunday Mail), "Proof Jet Was Not Spying" (Sunday Mirror) and "Outraged Reagan Demands: Tell Us the Truth--Come Clean, Andropov" (Sunday Express).

"Americans Named Soviet General"

Correspondents for the Sunday Times reported, "The Americans yesterday named the Soviet General who, they believe, would have given the final order to shoot down (the plane) in a move which gave the public a rare glimpse into a highly secret and sophisticated area of U.S. intelligence..."

An editorial in the same paper said, "Shock, revulsion and grief can be the only proper responses to the deaths of the...airline passengers and crew..."

"In our view...the scattershot approach in reacting is both ineffectual and beside the point. It would be far better to find something that will at the same time demonstrate the depth of Western feeling, inflict penalties that will particularly affect the ruling classes in the USSR, and in the end, produce substantial compensation for the victims..."

"Greater Concern for Exploiting...Than Determining Details"

Today's Observer said, "President Reagan, angry at what he said were 'flagrant Soviet lies' about the shooting down (of the plane), yesterday accused the Russians of 'murder.' Around the world, angry protests and demonstrations about the Soviet action continued..."

An editorial said, "In many quarters there seemed to be a greater concern for exploiting the disaster for propaganda purposes than for establishing the actual details of what occurred..."

"Moscow Accused Reagan of 'Hypocritical Sorrow'"

The conservative Sunday Telegraph reported that "just before it was shot down, the (plane) tried to signal that it would comply with Soviet interception procedures, according to fragments of monitored communications analyzed in Washington..."

A Moscow correspondent for the paper reported, "Moscow accused President Reagan last night of expressing 'hypocritical sorrow' over the loss..."

An editorial held, "Western statesmen would be naive if they did not do all in their power to press home the moral of this crime...to everyone who can listen..."

"(But) even if conducted in a frostier atmosphere...(nuclear missile) talks have to go ahead for the sake of those who live on both sides of the iron curtain."

"Incident Was Not a Sudden Aberration"

Today's nationalistic Mail maintained, in an editorial, that "the most terrible thing about (the incident) is that it was not a sudden aberration or a tragic mistake. It was an absolutely typical act of ruthlessness..."

"It Will Be a Long Time Before Outrage Subsides"

The Sunday Express editorial held that "it will be a long time before the worldwide outrage and revulsion at the Soviet Union's coldblooded destruction of a Korean jumbo jet filled with innocent men, women and children, begins to subside..."

FRANCE

"Little by Little...Moscow Admits the Facts"

In Paris, liberal Le Monde's Sunday edition ran a front-page story that "nothing can better prove the fundamental culpability of the USSR...than the way in which Moscow, little by little, crumb by crumb, admits (new facts)..."

WEST GERMANY

Television newscasts last night featured film footage of demonstrations against the Soviet Union in New York, Seoul and Tokyo.

"President Reagan Will Announce Countermeasures Sunday"

Washington correspondent Dieter Kronzucker observed on TV Two last night that "President Reagan feels that these events simply prove his negative assessment of the USSR."

"Reagan will announce (Sunday) U.S. countermeasures....Secretary of State Shultz will travel to Madrid next week. It is expected that he will question intensely Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko on this issue. The Madrid negotiations are just of secondary importance in light of these new developments."

"Moscow Says All This is Anti-Soviet U.S. Plot"

The news show had a report from Moscow that "the Soviets have made clear that all this is an anti-Soviet U.S. plot. The CIA is accused of being responsible. The Soviets should perhaps reconsider because trust and confidence will be important elements for negotiations in Madrid and Geneva."

"Secretary Shultz Repeated 'Tell the Truth'"

TV One's Washington correspondent Cornelius Bormann, said in a main newscast last night that "President Reagan met with the National Security Council to decide on U.S. reactions..."

"Landing rights of Soviet airplanes may be limited. The grain agreement does not seem to be an effective instrument of applying political pressure."

"Secretary Shultz has once again demanded a complete uncovering of the events and that the USSR should 'tell the truth.'....President Reagan made clear that Soviet and Cuban airplanes have, in the past, violated U.S. airspace without the United States resorting to military counter measures."

"Americans Do Not Want to Use Economic Pressure"

In a later broadcast, the same correspondent said, "The Americans do not want to use economic pressure against the Soviets. The Geneva talks are to be continued. Secretary Shultz demanded that the Soviets should 'tell the truth.'"

ITALY

Italian headlines yesterday included "White House Begins Debate on Credibility of USSR" (Corriere della Sera), "Incredible Version of Soviets on Korean Civil Air Tragedy" (La Repubblica), "U.S. Does Not Exclude Recourse to Retaliation Against USSR" (La Stampa) and "Between U.S. and USSR--Charges and Tension. Moscow Talks of Provocation But Not Proofs. Reagan: Soviets Are No longer Credible" (Communist l'Unita).

"Can Andropov Admit Facts Without Confrontation With Military?"

New York correspondent Ugo Stille said in yesterday's centrist Corriere della Sera that "In the view of the Americans the only satisfactory way out would be for the USSR to frankly admit its error and attribute the responsibility to a 'low-level military command'..."

"But can Andropov do this without risking the opening of a state of tension and confrontation with Soviet military leaders?"

"Cancelling Geneva Talks Would Cause Difficulty for Europeans"

Leftist La Repubblica of Rome ran the report of New York correspondent Gaetano Scardocchia that "Diplomats (in Washington) have let it be known that--other than recourse to the U.N. Security Council and the cancellation of the Shultz-Gromyko meeting, the White House is gauging other countermeasures....But not the Geneva talks since such a decision would place in difficulty European countries hosting American missiles..."

"Almost Certain Reagan Will Decree Sanctions"

Turin's centrist La Stampa yesterday ran New York correspondent Ennio Caretto's story that "it is almost certain that President Reagan will decree new sanctions against the Soviets. His problem is to choose a line that doesn't compromise the newly initiated 'detente' that has just begun after two and a half years..."

"We Must Continue to Talk"

Left-leaning Il Messagero of Rome declared, in a front-page editorial that "we must continue to talk....The tragedy...must give more force, not to those movements--generous but utopian--for unilateral disarmament of the West, but instead to mass movements that press for dialogue, for talks, incessantly, until the seeds of an authentic pacifism are planted..."

FINLAND

"U.S. Considers Sanctions"

Headlines today were "Reagan Insists on Soviet Explanation--Plans for Sanctions" (Helsingen Sanomat), "U.S. Considers Sanctions--Soviets Admit No Guilt" (Hufvudstadsbladet) and "Soviet Explanation Does Not Satisfy West" (Uusi Suomi).

"Outburst of Emotion Around the World"

Finnish television last night showed films of demonstrations against the Soviet Union in Japan, South Korea and the United States. A commentator noted "the outburst of emotion around the world" and concluded that "in the end this incident will be recorded as a propaganda defeat for the Soviet Union."

SWEDEN

"Can Expect U.S. to Take Measures"

Stockholm's independent Dagens Nyheter said today, "One can expect the United States to take measures against the Soviet Union--excluding an economic embargo or breaking off the INF talks. This sudden crisis is severe enough..."

Conservative Dagbladet said, "The results of Moscow's brainy efforts over the past few days are extremely poor and will be only accepted in those circles which always uncritically swallow everything served up by Soviet propaganda..."

DENMARK

"Soviet Union Tore Down Its Own Credibility"

Copenhagen's conservative Berlingske Tidende said in an editorial today that "the deed itself reveals the Soviet military might for what it is--an inhuman, stupid, callous machine which, without second thought or evaluation, wipes out human lives according to orders..."

"The Soviet Union has succeeded in a few hours to tear down its own credibility..."

"No Reason to Change Position on Negotiating With Soviets"

Left-of-center Politiken held today that "the order was hardly given by responsible political leaders....The decision was probably made in some other place in the military hierarchy..."

"(But) as we were willing to negotiate with Moscow before this episode, there is no reason to change that position today..."

NORWAY

"Must Have Been Isolated Military Decision"

In Oslo yesterday, conservative Aftenposten said, "We must presume that the Kremlin leaders would have said no to shooting down the plane, which means it must have been an isolated military decision."

"But if the military, acting on their wits, has free hands to complicate and strain Soviet relations with the rest of the world, then it looks as if the political leaders are mere figure heads..."

PORTUGAL

"Act Springs From Despotism"

Lisbon's conservative O Dia maintained in an editorial today that "the crime is proof of the blindness and barbarism of a system which, ironically is promoting the celebrations for 'world peace day.'"

An editorial in the popular weekly Expresso called the incident "an act, doubtlessly, which springs from the despotism of someone who believes he is powerful enough to impose his will against everything and everyone, especially smaller countries..."

Centrist Correio da Manha today ran the headline "Russians Already Have Found Wreckage." A story in the paper cited the President of Portugal as "strongly condemning the way which an air space violation was solved, involving the loss of human lives..."

A box on the front-page gave an account of the "confrontation" between the United States and the Soviet Union at the United Nations.

AUSTRIA

"Demonstrators Will Now Perhaps Pause and Think"

In Vienna today, independent tabloid Kronen-Zeitung declared, "With their peace propaganda, the Soviets have succeeded of late in influencing some unstable minds in the West..."

"Those demonstrators who are sincerely for peace will now perhaps pause and think whether they can reconcile it with their conscience to take action, together with young Socialists and Communists, to protest mainly against the United States, as if the envisaged American INF modernization were the main evil..."

GREECE

"U.S. Propaganda Exploitation...and Clumsy Soviet Handling"

Athens' prestigious, pro-Government Vima ran the headline "Reagan Will Announce No Reprisals or Boycotts Against Russians for Destroying Boeing" and stated, "U.S. propaganda exploitation of the tragedy continues and is reinforced by clumsy handling of the issue by the Soviet Union..."

A New York correspondent wrote in a separate story that "cancellation of the Reagan-Andropov meeting...may be the most serious consequence of the downing of the plane. This will be particularly painful to Europeans many of whom have pinned their hopes on this meeting..."

TURKEY

"Moscow's Explanations Unsatisfactory"

Istanbul's liberal Milliyet had the headlines "Soviets Will Fire Upon Japanese Ships Entering Their Territorial Waters," "Moscow's Explanations Unsatisfactory" and "Soviets Announce Finding Debris of Downed Airliner But Do Not Give Detailed Explanation," "Ban on Demonstrations Lifted in South Korea--People Are Burning Soviet Flags in the Streets."

Sensationalist Gunaydin today announced, "A Law Suit Opened Against Soviets for \$99 Billion."

EASTERN EUROPE

HUNGARY

"Exercise to Stir Up Anti-Soviet Hysteria"

Leading papers in Budapest today carried stories on the U.N. Security Council meeting and identical TASS stories on the incident. The U.N. stories cited the Soviet ambassador as saying the entire event was a "propaganda exercise" to "stir up anti-Soviet hysteria."

YUGOSLAVIA

"Americans Looking for Full Confession and Repentance"

Belgrade's Politika today carried Washington correspondent Jurij Gustinic's report that "the Americans are obviously looking for something that is at least probably to happen--full confession and repentence..."

SOVIET UNION

"Washington Mounting Worldwide Rabid Anti-Soviet Campaign"

In Moscow yesterday TASS declared, "Washington is feverishly covering up traces of the provocation staged against the Soviet Union with the utilization of the South Korean plane..."

"The White House and the Department of State are mounting a worldwide rabid anti-Soviet campaign, the tone first set by the U.S. President. In his statements, permeated with frenzied hatred and malice for the Soviet state...the head of the White House is trying to convince public opinion that the USSR allegedly is guilty of loss of life..."

EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC

JAPAN

Coverage of Reagan Radio Speech

Tokyo's NHK, TBS and Fuji television today ran reports from Washington on President Reagan's radio speech, citing him as demanding an apology from the USSR. However, they saw indications that the United States would continue the nuclear disarmament negotiations in Geneva.

Moderate Yomiuri and Mainichi carried brief highlights of the radio speech.

Foreign Ministry "Not" Considering Application of Sanctions Against USSR

Today's liberal Asahi reported that the Japanese Foreign Ministry was not considering application of sanctions against the Soviet Union because the KAL incident, unlike the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, was a "passing event."

The paper added that the Foreign Ministry intends to await a Soviet clarification of the incident and of the problem of conducting search operations in Soviet territorial waters, but that it would take further diplomatic steps if the Soviets continued their "insincere" stand.

Predictions of What the U.S. Will Do

Washington correspondent Kishii of Mainichi today cited a U.S. Government source as saying the United States would demand a definite commitment from Andropov and other Soviet leaders on the safety of civilian planes.

The paper believed that this country would call for 1) prevention of armed threats and attacks on civilian planes and ships, and 2) guarantee of safe international navigation of airliners and ships.

"Preposterous Soviet Statement"

An editorial in today's Yomiuri termed the Soviet statement on the KAL plane "quite preposterous" and observed that the USSR "continues to plead innocent although Japan and the United States reportedly have detailed information on Soviet communications around the time the Korean plane was shot."

"Our main concern is the poor administrative ability of the Andropov regime in handling a crisis....If the Andropov Government has lost control of Soviet military leaders, we cannot fail but to look with apprehension toward the Soviet Union even if a hot line and other systems of mutual trust are provided."

"ROK Demands That Soviets Present Full Account"

Papers, as reported in a press roundup today, emphasized the world's anger at the Soviet act, and ran pictures of South Koreans demonstrating in Seoul, denouncing the Soviets and burning the Soviet flag.

All papers yesterday top-headlined the UNSC meeting with typical headlines reading: "South Korea Demands That USSR Present Full Account of Incident, and Apologize to the World for Their Act, Make Compensation, and Punish Those Who Are Directly Responsible For the Incident."

U.S. to Present a Resolution at UNSC

Today's Government-owned Seoul Shinmun ran wire reports stating that the United States would submit to the UNSC next week a resolution denouncing the barbarous act of the USSR.

"Provocation Was Premeditated"

An editorial in yesterday's Chosun Ilbo contended that "it is evident the provocation was premeditated either to test the United States or to intimidate Japan. The most important thing, however, is why (the Soviets) victimize a small and weak nation. We are positive that they would not shoot down JAL or Northwest Airlines..."

"We have realized the so-called 'northern policy' or detente is a fantasy and that it is high time for us to see clearly where we stand, distinguishing enemies from friends."

"Soviet Brutality a Strong Warning For Japan"

Yesterday's Hankook Ilbo said: "We expect the Soviet brutality will be a strong warning to Japan in particular for her 'free ride in security' (and that) it might constitute a serious challenge to the status quo on the Korean peninsula and in the world."

HONG KONG

Letter From Heartbroken Girl to Andropov

Today's independent South China Morning Post led its front page with a report that Man-Yee, "a heartbroken nine-year-old girl, whose best friend died in the Korean Airlines disaster, has written to the Soviet leader, Mr. Yuri Andropov, asking why (the friend) had to be killed."

USIA/P/RM

10

9/4/83

"Man-yee has also begged for permission to visit the Sakhalin Island area where the plane went down....She, like many others around the world, said she wanted an explanation from the Soviet leader and that she wanted to write to him.

"The child's act was inspired by a letter written to Mr. Andropov earlier this year by an 11-year-old American schoolgirl, Samantha Smith, who made a personal plea for peace."

SINGAPORE

"Senseless and Savage"

The Sunday Times carried comments by Singapore Foreign Minister Dhanabalan on the downing of the KAL plane under the front-page headline "Senseless and Savage" with the subhead "Soviet Act Shows Careless Disregard for Human Life and the Norms of Civilized Behavior..."

FIJI

"Anti-Soviet Propaganda and Soviet Counter-accusations"

Suva's Sunday Times saw "some Western Governments milking this dreadful incident for all it is worth in terms of anti-Soviet propaganda and the Soviets responding with counter-accusations instead of the explanations which are so desperately needed."

CHINA

"Soviets' Concealing Things Inflames International Outrage"

Today's People's Daily carried a "newsletter from America" by correspondent Zhang Yunwen which said "the Soviet Union's effrontery in shooting down a Korean Airlines passenger plane immediately caused a tremendous shock here and on the international scene."

"The Soviet Union's behavior in concealing things in every possible way, not daring to face the facts, can only further inflame international outrage. Governments and public opinion in every country have confirmed and condemned the Soviet Union's shooting down of the South Korean airliner."

SOUTH ASIA

INDIA

"USSR Under Fire in U.N. Council"

Typical front-page headlines in papers today were "USSR Under Fire in U.N. Council" (Indian Express), "Travel Curbs by West on Soviets Likely" (Times of India), and "Russia Denounced in U.N. Council...U.N. Council Deplores Soviet Action" (Statesman).

"Soviets Are Guilty of Duplicity"

The latter paper said today in an editorial headed "An Unforgivable Act" that "it would appear that (the Soviets) are guilty not merely of a monstrous crime against unarmed civilians, but also of duplicity...

"On Friday, New Delhi, apparently taking the first statement at its face value, expressed the hope that 'it is not true that the plane was shot down'. (Now) there is no longer any room for equivocation of anyone's part.

"All possible international pressure must be brought upon Moscow to acknowledge direct and full responsibility for the brutal massacre."

The paper added the view that "the Russians will now be on much weaker ground in criticizing the Reagan Administration's militaristic postures in Central America or elsewhere.

PAKISTAN

"Pakistan Expresses Deep Anxiety Over Incident"

Today's Government-owned Pakistan Times bannered "Pakistan Expresses Deep Anxiety Over Plane Shooting...Call to Facilitate Impartial Inquiry Reagan May Announce Punitive Action...USSR Fails to Offer Apology.

An editorial in influential Nawai-Waqt said today that "even if for the sake of argument we accept the Soviet plea that the plane was involved in espionage, still there is no justification to kill 269 innocent people who for sure could not all be spying."

MIDDLE EAST

ISRAEL

"Murderers in the Skies"

Tel Aviv's independent Haaretz in an editorial with the above headline today equated the Soviet Union with terrorist organizations and accused Moscow of "perpetrating an especially hideous crime."

It went on to state that "a humiliating situation might be created if it should turn out that the United States in 1983 has not much more effective means to punish the Soviets for the killing of scores of Americans than Israel had at a time when Bulgaria downed an El-Al airliner."

National Religious Party Hatzofe maintained today that "the problem is not how the Soviets can explain the incident, as President Reagan has demanded, but whether the free world can defend itself against air piracy."

SAUDI ARABIA

"The Arabs Have Had Same Kind of Tragic Experience"

Today's moderately conservative al-Riyadh wrote: "The Arabs too have had a tragic experience of the same kind, when Israel shot down a (Libyan) civilian airliner. At that time, the incident triggered no reaction from the global powers--even those that today are lamenting the victims of the Korean airliner..."

KUWAIT

Kuwaiti Unwillingness to Condemn USSR Without Proof

Arabic-language papers today reported that the Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs had issued a statement that, without proof, Kuwait was unwilling to condemn the USSR.

The paper quoted an unidentified Ministry spokesman as saying "a Kuwaiti response would be tantamount to undermining and damaging cordial relations with a friendly state. Kuwait is unwilling to damage such relations or improve them...at the expense of her relations with another state."

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

"Fullest Possible Investigation Should Be Held"

Today's English-language Khaleej Times declared that "the fullest possible investigation should be held by an international team of civil aviation experts. If the Soviet Union is, as it claims, innocent of the charge of coldbloodedly shooting down the aircraft, it should welcome such an investigation."

BAHRAIN

"Soviet Act Cannot Be Justified"

An editorial in today's Government-owned Jaridat Oman stressed that "it is impossible to belittle the horror of the tragic downing of the KAL plane or to minimize the way it has shocked public opinion.

"There is no way to justify the downing of a civilian airliner....Perhaps this (incident) reveals the 'truth' of the peace proposals which the Soviet Union has announced from time to time."

ALGERIA

Press Concentrates on TASS Versions

Media, as reported in a press roundup today, gave little coverage to the downing of the airliner. Most stories relied heavily on TASS news agency reports, and emphasized Western "overreaction" to the incident

Government-controlled electronic media gave even less coverage. Television appeared to ignore it completely and radio news programs ran the story as the last item of international news, supplying no details of the downing or the international reaction that had resulted.

LATIN AMERICA

BRAZIL

"Soviet Attitude Reprehensible in Every Respect "

In Brasilia, Jornal de Brasilia ran a columnist's comment that foreign diplomats in capital city at first considered the Brazilian Foreign Ministry's prompt and vehement denunciation to be "precipitate" but it turned out to be correct.

He continued, "The Soviet attitude was in every respect reprehensible. Nothing excuses it. The Soviet air force knows that the polar route, because of its natural peculiarities, poses problems for all aircraft, civilian and military.

"Because of these difficulties, pilots regularly stray off course, and even penetrate Soviet air space. Thus this cannot constitute a surprise for Moscow....To shoot down the plane was a criminal act."

"Reagan Increases Pressure But Calls for Calm"

The incident continued today to be a major story in all Rio de Janeiro media. Front-page coverage was given by all Sunday papers. Headlines gave emphasis to President Reagan's call on his radio talk yesterday for calm among allies but firmness and world unity to condemn the Soviet Union.

Typical headlines today were: "Reagan Asks the World to Unite to Condemn USSR" and "Reagan Requests Unity Against Soviet Brutality" (conservative O Globo), "Reagan Recommends Calm to Allies on Boeing" (independent Jornal do Brasil), "Reagan Increases Pressure But Calls for Calm" (mass appeal O Dia) and "Reagan: Firm But Controlled Reaction to Soviet Aggression" (Latin American Daily Post).

Reagan's "Most Vehement" Criticism of Soviet Union to Date

Heavy coverage was given to the incident by Sao Paulo media yesterday. President Reagan's earlier statement was prominently played. Newspapers, radio and TV station noted that it was "most vehement" criticism of the Soviet Union to date. Conservative O Estado de Sao Paulo published the full text under the headline "This Brutality Must Not Be Forgiven."

"Cold War Being Waged in the Pacific Ocean"

Foreign affairs commentator Newton Carlos said on TV Bandierantes that "in addition to the barbarism, there are strategic implications being stressed by important military analysts...The USSR is reinforcing its fleet in the Pacific and at the same time accuses the Japanese Government of being militaristic and engaged with the United States in the establishment of an iron axis in the Pacific.

"The world knows (because of the incident) that the cold war is being waged in the Pacific Ocean, whose waters touch the four big contemporary powers: the United States, USSR, China and Japan."

"Is It Possible To Conclude Lasting Agreement With Such a Power?"

Conservative O Estado de Sao Paulo in an editorial yesterday wrote, "In a civilized world no nation can present any acceptable or even imaginable argument to shoot down an unarmed civilian plane with passengers aboard, even if its pilot commits the mistake of entering the air space of a sovereign nation....

"If the highest Soviet officials do not present a convincing and fair explanation for what has happened...they will have to answer to the political consequences of this military 'feat' which affects the moral status of the USSR in the international community and its relations with civilized nations....

"Once again one may ask whether it is possible and worthwhile to conclude valid and lasting agreements with a power whose moral patterns do not coincide with the precepts of civilization."

"Always Possibility U.S. Government Is Lying"

Liberal Folha de Sao Paulo ran this following comment by Paulo Francis from New York: "There always exists the possibility that the U.S. Government is lying. It would not be any novelty. But this is much too great a risk for every government and in the case of a lie it would destroy Reagan.

"The hatefulness of the U.S. policy causes in the third world makes it painful for many people to believe Reagan when he attacks the USSR. But in this case, only explanations confirmed with documents will be capable of changing the impression of Soviet delinquency.

"There is no excuse....But what remains is the lack of any civilized Soviet judgment...."

COLOMBIA

"Worldwide Indignation"

Second-day coverage in Colombian media yesterday gained force as media and other leaders accused the "ambiguous and pugnacious" Soviet replies as not responding. Headline slant and editorials lambasted the Soviet Union. Typical were liberal El Tiempo's "Worldwide Indignation: Russia Insists in Denial." Liberal El Espectador headlined "Cowardly Soviet Slaughter."

"Unheard of Action by Soviet Military Aviation"

Conservative El Siglo said in an editorial on Friday that the "sense of sorrow felt by honest people about disaster in other areas was transformed ...into feelings, first of incredulity, then doubt and finally indignation and horror when the Government of the United States confirmed that this immense tragedy was no accident....What was involved was an unheard of action by Soviet military aviation against a defenseless commercial aircraft."

Colombian Congress Condemns "Barbarous Attack"

The paper also reported that the Congress of Colombia, "through the Vice President of the Senate, Eduardo Mestre Sarmiento, condemned what he called the 'barbarous attack' against a passenger plane of Korean Airlines, which was downed by a Soviet weapon."

The statement was made during the visit of a delegation of Korean parliamentarians. The Vice President of the Senate said, "We wish to express to you our condolences and our solidarity in the matter of this barbarous attack."

ECUADOR

"Places the Peace of the Whole World in Danger"

Quito's Ultimas Noticias in a editorial yesterday said, "Any explanations are unsatisfying in the case of the argument that we are obviously dealing with a civilian aircraft with passengers on board and that a missile would obviously take hundreds of lives..."

"The 747 was under control of eight Soviet fighters and one cannot presume that it constituted any danger....An event of this kind can place in danger not only the peace of the region but the world as a whole....Nothing can justify attacks of this kind...which should be condemned absolutely above any other consideration."

CARIBBEAN

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

"Soviet Union Will Have a Hard Time Explaining This to the World"

Santo Domingo's El Sol on Friday said, "The whole world was moved...No matter what, we believe that we are witness to a crime, a horrible crime which we condemn vigorously.

"No sane person could conceive of a combat jet fighter's firing cold-bloodedly on an airliner filled with passengers and then returning to base as though nothing had occurred. The Soviet Union will have a hard time explaining this to the world..."

Leading Listin Diario wrote, "This merciless attack may be considered to be a most grim and coldblooded warning, a warning to the world that if the Soviet Union sees the strengthening of the NATO defense system as a threat, the Soviet Union is prepared to unleash, without warning, its most powerful nuclear attack on the nations bordering on the Communist world."

Papers in Kingston, Port of Spain, Bridgetown and Nassau gave front-page coverage. The state-owned Guayana Chronicle of Georgetown carried no news on Friday on the incident. The state-owned monopoly radio station GBC on Thursday ran a VOA report on Secretary Shultz's press statement.

AFRICA

ZAMBIA

Pravda Account, U.S. Reactions Used

Media yesterday reported factually on the incident, using wire service material. The Government party-owned Times of Zambia in Lusaka yesterday headlined a front-page item "International Outcry Over Missing Plane."

The article said "Western countries expressed outrage and some pilots' associations said they might press for an international anti-Soviet boycott unless Moscow came up with a quick explanation of the episode."

The Government-owned Zambian Daily Mail on Friday headlined AFP and Reuter reports "Airline Shooting Barbaric."

"If Correct, Soviets Will Bear Heavy Responsibility"

Radio Zambia in its principal morning broadcast yesterday, limited its very brief report to a TASS item that a South Korean aircraft was involved in a premeditated intelligence gathering activity. Radio Zambia also noted countries like Italy have expressed their solidarity with South Korea.

TV Zambia on Friday evening provided Zambia's only comment to date. Following a report on the incident, the announcer noted that "if the preceeding information is correct then the Soviets will bear a heavy responsibility for this action."

ZIMBABWE

Full Report of Secretary Shultz's Description of Soviet Action

The Herald of Harare on Friday, in addition to running a Reuter-AP article on Secretary Shultz's claim of irrefutable evidence that the Soviet Union shot down the South Korean airliner, also carried full report of his description of the Soviet tracking and downing of the South Korean plane.

NIGERIA

Light Coverage for Third Straight Day

Coverage of the event and world reaction to the shooting down of the South Korean airliner today remained light for the third straight day in Nigerian media. There was no editorial comment in any Sunday paper.

Most complete coverage appeared in privately owned Sunday Sketch of Lagos which devoted seven stories to various aspects of the incident. The Sunday Times of Lagos reported on the Security Council meeting.

The Sunday Tribune, under headlines "USSR Indicted Over Down Plane," reported protests in Seoul because the Soviet Union had not acknowledged the act and reaction in the United States and Japan. The Sunday Satellite of Enugu gave a summary of events through Friday evening.

ZAIRE

"Widespread Indignation Throughout the World"

Media in Kinshasha radio wire service items on the incident yesterday and Friday. The Zaire news agency (ZAZP) carried an AFP-sourced item which was also prominently featured by the French language dailies Elima and Salongo. Elima headlined "There Is Widespread Indignation Throughout the World."

SOUTH AFRICA

"Melodrama of Modern Fiction Has Suddenly Become Real"

All papers front-paged yesterday reports of the incident. South African Broadcasting Corporation radio ran it as top story. Typical headline was "Red Jet Shoots Down Airliner" in the Afrikaans daily Beeld of Johannesburg.

The afternoon daily Star of Johannesburg, yesterday said, "Ominously, a melodrama of modern fiction has suddenly become real...The two superpowers stand eyeball to eyeball in the most dramatic and frightening confrontation since the Kennedy-Khrushchev Cuban missile episode two decades ago.

The editorialist called the incident "the severest test for both Mr. Reagan and Mr. Andropov since they assumed office, and how they react may well affect East-West relations for a considerable time to come.

"Until the Russians provide some explanation for their extraordinary, carefully plotted act of murder--and it is difficult to imagine what such explanation could be--the words of the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, Congressman Tip O'Neill, stand unchallenged: 'This act of airborne terrorism will not be forgotten or excused by decent people all over the world.'"

Foreign Minister "Pik" Botha: "Senseless and Brutal Act"

Major South African papers yesterday quoted Foreign Minister "Pik" Botha as saying, "There can be no excuse for it. It should not be tolerated. We in South Africa join with people everywhere in expressing our revulsion on this cowardly attack."

The Star of Johannesburg cited Conservative caucus chairman Howard Phillips as saying, "There is great reason to consider that the purpose of the MIG fighter was specifically to assassinate Congress Larry McDonald, who has been a strong and effective adversary of Communist intelligence and terrorist activities in the United States and throughout the free world."